Middle-aged tourists visiting India

4274. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether incredible India is fast becoming a preferred destination for middle-aged tourists;

(b) whether the latest statistics prepared by the Ministry states that travellers aged 45 and above constitute 41 per cent of the total tourists visiting the country;

(c) whether the number of younger foreign tourists declined by 10 per cent during the last 10 years;

(d) if so, whether due to incidence of rape and murdering of young foreign tourists are the reasons for decrease in young tourists; and

(e) if so, what are concrete measures and steps Government proposes to take to help and assist foreign tourists and also provide safety to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Foreign Tourists Arrivals (FTAs) in India, including those pertaining to the middle-aged (45 years and above) tourists, has been increasing in the recent years. The FTAs for tourists aged 45 years and above constituted about 41% of the total FTAs in India in 2006 as compared to about 30% in 1996.

(c) to (e) The FTAs in India for tourists aged below 45 years increased from 1.61 million in 1996 to 2.63 million in 2006, registering a growth of about 63%.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, and the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories.The Ministry of Tourism, therefore, asked State Governments and Union Territories to deploy tourist police at places frequented by tourists and ten States have already deployed tourist police at important tourist destinations. In a recent meeting with Secretaries of Tourism of States and Union Territories, it was emphasized that the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/ Union Territories must ensure the same.

Industry status for tourism sector

4275. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism has been accorded the industry status;

(b) if so, whether Government has plans to boost-up the development of tourism industry by providing incentives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) have announced packages for the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal for certain identified thrust industries, including Eco-Tourism industries set up in these States. Thereafter the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has announced the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 under which capital investment subsidy